

(e) a protein encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 9, 11, 13, or 15 under the stringent condition.

4. (Amended) The DNA of claim 1, wherein the protein having a neoxanthin cleavage activity is derived from *Arabidopsis* plants.

5. (Amended) A transformant plant cell carrying the DNA of claim 1.

6. (Amended) The transgenic plant of claim 6, wherein the expression of a gene encoding a protein having a neoxanthin cleavage activity is increased or decreased compared with its wild type.

9. (Amended) The transgenic plant of claim 6, wherein the amount of abscisic acid is increased or decreased compared with its wild type.

10. (Amended) The transgenic plant of claim 6, wherein stress tolerance is increased or decreased compared with its wild type.

11. (Amended) A propagation material for the transgenic plant of claim 6.

12. (Amended) A vector comprising the DNA of claim 1.

13. (Amended) A method for producing the transgenic plant carrying the DNA of claim 1, comprising the steps of introducing said DNA into a plant cell and regenerating a plant from the plant cell.

14. (Amended) A method for increasing or decreasing stress tolerance in a plant, comprising expressing the DNA of claim 1 in a plant cell.